

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed July 9, 2003, claims 17 and 18 were rejected. Claims 19 and 20 were allowed. Claims 8-16 were withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

In the current response, claims 8-18 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in the current application or a related application. No new claims are added and no claims are amended. As such, claims 19 and 20 remain pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent No. 6,567,522 to Blackburn (hereinafter referred to as "Blackburn"). In the light of the cancellation of claims 17 and 18, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims be removed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 19 and 20 are allowable. In light of the cancellation of the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully request that these allowed claims proceed to issuance.

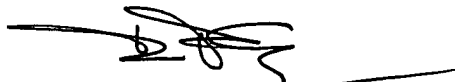
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all the pending objections and rejections be removed. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1703 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

In the event this paper is not time filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87288.1986.

Respectfully submitted,

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